

## LIGHTS THAT FAILED.

Gloom Reigned When Thackeray and Charlotte Bronte Met.

Those do not always shine who should, as many a chagrined host or hostess has found out. Amusing in retrospect, if quite otherwise at the moment, must have been the occasion when Charlotte Bronte, "the little lady from Yorkshire of whom all England was talking," appeared at the London house of the author of "Vanity Fair." The story is told in Lewis Melville's "The Thackeray Country."

Thackeray gave a dinner party to meet Charlotte Bronte in June, 1850, and among the guests were the Carlyles, the Proctors, the Brookfields, Mr. Crowe, Miss Elliot and Miss Perry.

"It was a gloomy and silent evening," Lady Ritchie has recorded. "Every one waited for the brilliant conversation which never began at all."

"Miss Bronte returned to the sofa in the study and murmured a low word now and then to our governess, Miss Truelock. The room looked very dark; the lamp began to smoke a little; the conversation grew dimmer and more dim; the ladies sat round still expectant. My father was too much perturbed by the gloom and the silence to be able to cope with it at all. Mrs. Brookfield, who was in the corner in which Miss Bronte was sitting, bent forward with a little commonplace, since brilliance was not to be the order of the evening."

"Do you like London, Miss Bronte?" she asked. Another silence, a pause; then Miss Bronte answered very gravely:

"Yes—no." "After Miss Bronte had left I was surprised to see my father opening the front door with his hat on. He put his finger to his lips, walked out into the darkness and shut the door quietly behind him. Overcome by the gloom and constraint, he was running away to his club."

## TERROR OF A BOMB.

A Dramatic Incident of the Political Unrest in Russia.

Here is the story of a Russian anarchist outrage in the words of one who was nearly killed in the explosion: While staying at Cannes H. Jones Thaddeus, author of "Recollections of a Court Painter," met the Grand Duchess Elena of Russia, who gave him an account of the then recent attempt upon the life of the czar. The czar was a few minutes late in his arrival in the dining room, and for this reason the explosion was premature. After describing the event the grand duchess told Mr. Thaddeus:

"When the echoes of the explosion died away a dead silence succeeded, which, united with the darkness prevailing, so dense as almost to be felt, conducted to render our helpless position still more painful and unendurable. We dared not move. There was no escape from the peril which surrounded us. Presently out of the darkness came the clear, calm voice of the czar. 'My children, let us pray.' The sound of his voice, while reassuring us as to his safety so far, relieved the awful strain on our nerves and brought comfort to our hearts."

"We sank to our knees, sobbing. How long we remained so I really do not know. It seemed an eternity of anguish before the guards appeared with candles, little expecting to find us alive. Some of us were nearly demented when the welcome relief arrived, and our feelings were not calmed as we then contemplated the awful nature of the destruction we had escaped."

"A few feet in front of the czar was a black chasm where so short a time before had been the brilliantly lit dining room filled with servants. Not a trace of it or of them remained."

## Copper.

There are two theories as to the source of the term "cop" or "copper," the familiar name for an officer of the law in the mouth of the mischievous gamins. One derives it from the letters C. O. P.—central office police—but the other and more usual explanation of the word is that it referred to the eight point star made of copper and surrounded by a copper ring worn by the Metropolitan police of New York in the late fifties. This badge, a huge affair, which was fastened to the buttonhole by a chain about four inches long, was later superseded by a special badge of smaller size.

## For His Own Pleasure.

"I suppose your wife was more than delighted at your raise of salary, wasn't she?" asked Jones of Brown.

"I haven't told her yet, but she will be when she knows it," answered Brown.

"How is it that you haven't told her?"

"Well, I thought I would enjoy myself a couple of weeks first."—Judge.

## Cupid's Recall.

"Father, what do you think of the recall?"

"Well, my dear, I hardly know. Some people think it is dangerous. But why do you ask?"

"I sent Ferdie away last night, and now I'm sorry."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

## The Long, Long Run.

"I believe honesty pays in the long run."

"So do I, but I often wish it were not such a mighty long run."—Chicago Record-Herald.

## The Main Thing.

Actor—I can bring tears to the eyes of the audience. Theatrical Manager—Huh! We want somebody who can bring the audience. —Puck.

## VERDI'S COOL CRITIC.

A Chap Who Liked to Eat His Cake and Still Have It.

When Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Aida" was first being presented to Italian audiences the composer received the following letter, dated May, 1872, from a man residing in Reggio, a town near Parma, and about 100 miles from Milan:

"Much Honored Signor Verdi—The 2d of this month I went to Parma, drawn there by the sensation made by your opera 'Aida.' So great was my curiosity that one-half hour before the commencement of the piece I was already in my place, No. 120. I admired the mise en scene, I heard with pleasure the excellent singers, and I did all in my power to let nothing escape me. At the end of the opera I asked myself if I was satisfied, and the answer was 'No.' I started back to Reggio, and listened in the railway carriage to the opinions given upon 'Aida.' Nearly all agreed in considering it a work of the first order."

"I was then seized with the idea of hearing it again, and on the 4th I returned to Parma. I made unheard-of efforts to get a reserved seat. As the crowd was enormous I was obliged to throw away five lire in order to witness the performance with any comfort."

"I arrived at this conclusion about it: It is an opera in which there is absolutely nothing which causes any enthusiasm or excitement, and without the pomp of the spectacle the public would not stand it to the end. When it has filled the house two or three times it will be banished to the dust of the archives."

"You can now, dear Signor Verdi, picture to yourself my regret at having spent—on two occasions—32 lire. Add to this the aggravating circumstances that I depend on my family, and this money troubles my rest like a frightful specter! I therefore frankly address myself to you in order that you may send me the amount. The account is as follows:

Railroad—going	Lire 2.00
Railroad—returning	3.30
Opera tickets	8.00
Detestable supper at the station	2.00
Twice	15.90
	32.50

"Hoping that you will deliver me from this embarrassment, I salute you from my heart, Bertani."

"P. S.—My address: Prospero Bertani, via San Domenico, No. 5." Verdi happened to be more amused than offended at the cool impudence of this amateur critic, and he instructed his publisher to forward Signor Bertani the sum demanded minus 4 lire. By way of justifying this deduction he wrote, "The sum is not quite so much as the gentleman demands, but I think he might have taken his supper at home!"—Exchange.

## How It Affected Him.

A young lawyer asked a veteran at the bar if a lawyer ever got used to losing cases.

"I can't say, sir," responded the veteran. "I really can't say; but, as for myself, I am very much in the same fix as the man from Osceola who had been defeated for office. He was telling me about it and, in order to acquit himself of the charge of being a bad loser, kept interjecting the remark that he was not complaining. 'It doesn't pay to complain,' I said, agreeing with him."

"No, sir, it doesn't," he exclaimed, "and I won't complain, but at the same time I want you to understand, sir, that it makes me darned sick!"—Kansas City Journal.

## Just a Jolt.

"What's the matter?" "Oh, nothing."

"No, no; don't tell me that. Something disagreeable or discouraging has happened. Your look shows it."

"Well, if you insist on knowing, I started out this morning feeling as gay and chipper as a boy of twenty, but a little while ago I met a former sweetheart of mine, and she told me that her second daughter had just graduated from high school. Say, are the wrinkles around my eyes very noticeable?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

## The Downtrodden Farmer.

A city man heard that a farmer wanted to sell a motorcar. He sympathized with the poor farmer and his family because they were forced to part with the machine for financial reasons, he believed, and went out to the farm to buy it. The farmer was not at home, but his daughter was there. "I came out to buy your motorcar," he said. "Which one?" asked the girl.—Kansas City Star.

## Two of a Kind.

Pecunious Father—So you dare to say you are an ideal match for my daughter? Impecunious Youth—I do, indeed, sir! Pecunious Father—Why, you have never earned a dollar in your life. Impecunious Youth—Neither has she.—Philadelphia Ledger.

## Established a Record.

"What did mother say when you proposed to her, daddy?"

"She hung her head and was silent for several minutes. And that is the only time I have ever known her to be silent for several minutes."—Detroit Free Press.

## Missed the Story.

"Say, what was that story about, Elvira?"

"Well, can you keep a secret?"

"Sure."

"So can I."—Wlk.

The stone sharpens knives, but is dull itself.—Plutarch.

## TIMELY HINTS FOR FARMERS

## Pure Bred Dairy Cattle.

The tendency toward building up the dairy business, like that of every other business, is toward the best possible conditions for the most profit. Every one recognizes the fact that high grade conditions in any business only approximate the best and most profitable. The highest and most profitable dairy herd is that of pure bred cows as well as sires. The grade herds which were here and there first established are slowly giving way to pure bred cows. With the pure breeds of noted milk and butter strains the grade herds are being superseded all over the country. Wherever established they are proving more profitable than grade herds for the reason that, as a rule, by a marked per cent over grades they prove better. Any one with a grade dairy herd can gradually build up a pure bred one by commencing with a few registered cows and a good sire at the head. The surplus of such herds, both males and heifers, can be sold at better prices than grades, and so both in butter and surplus animals such herds are proving more profitable. —Coleman's Rural World.

## Charcoal For Poultry.

Charcoal is an excellent corrective of the evils of injudicious overfeeding and is also a good remedy in bowel disorders in poultry. Having wonderful absorbent powers, especially for gases, only a small quantity should be put into the feed hoppers at a time on account of its absorbent nature. It should be kept in a thoroughly dry vessel with a close fitting cover, so as to exclude the air. If charcoal is heated well before given to the poultry it will have a tendency to drive off the impurities which may have become absorbed and it will be equal to fresh charcoal.

## Economy of the Silo.

Corn is simply a big grass, and cattle do their best on grass. Ensilage has much the same nature as grass and affects cattle in the same way. In fact, the same results can be had from feeding ensilage in winter that are obtained on blue grass pasture in summer and on very much less land. This is one of the economies of the silo. A large crop of the best of green feed can be preserved from a relatively small amount of land.—Kansas Farmer.

## Dehorning Cattle.

Professor O. F. Reed of the dairy department of the Kansas Agricultural college decided to dehorn a bunch of twelve milk cows and to determine if possible whether the dehorning had any influence on the flow of milk. The first five days after dehorning the cows showed some decrease in milk, but later the flow increased to normal and in some cases was larger than before dehorning.

## CARE OF POULTRY IN HOT WEATHER.

## Flock Needs Abundant Water and Protection From Sun.

During the spring and summer months constant care must be taken to see that the hens and young chickens have plenty of water and shade. Writes a correspondent of the Iowa Homestead. The hens cannot manufacture eggs without a liberal supply of water, as a large per cent of egg is composed of water. The growing flock, too, will not develop properly if half famished from thirst. This may mean no winter eggs from the pullets.

If one would take the best care of the flock he should give it fresh water in the morning and just after noon. The water that stands in a fountain very long becomes stale and unwholesome. Water should always be pure and the vessels clean. It is wise to keep the water vessels in the shade of the house or trees all the day.

This leads to the important question of shade. No fowls will do well in warm weather without sufficient shade. I have made it a special point to notice my hens in the summer, and I have discovered that along toward the middle of the day they will seek shelter from the sun's hot rays. They will either retire to the shade of a tree or the shelter of the poultry house. They prefer to get away from the house if they can find suitable shade elsewhere. If no trees are growing in the yard and there are no bushes or shrubbery of any kind where the flock may find shade it will be well to construct an artificial shade by setting posts into the ground, one at each corner of a parallelogram plot. Nail crosspieces to these and place boards on them. Here the hens may find retreat from the hot sun.

## Value of Windbreaks.

Windbreaks are popular. They make the farmstead look better, and they make the buildings and yards more comfortable for the people and the stock.

## Keep the Young Stock.

Some farmers stand in their own light by selling off the thrifty young stock that is worth just as much to them as to the buyer.

## HUMOR OF THE DAY

## Conservative.

A woman on Columbia road engaged a new housemaid the other day and was immediately delighted at the exhibition of the new servant's efficiency. Norah waited on the table with perfect mastery; she answered the front door bell with matchless grace; she never once grumbled when told she must wear a cap; her darning was a marvel of orderliness.

But the mistress of the apartment was astonished when the new maid had been in the house about a week to find her cherished "Victory of Samothrace" was covered with dust. The beautiful headless body stood gray and unlovely on its pedestal, and the "Victory's" owner called Norah to see what the matter might be.

"I can't understand this, Norah," she said. "Everything else is kept so spotless. How have you happened to neglect the little statue? Have you dusted it at all?"

Norah admitted that she had not and said no more.

"But why?" the mistress persisted. "Why?" And then miserably the maid owned up.

"I'm a bit awkward with my fingers, mum," she murmured shyly. "An' I saw how bad it was broke, mum, an' I was afraid o' droppin' it an' makin' it worse!" — Washington Star.

## Saving His Shoes.

Hobnobbing at the city hall with the politicians certainly keeps the wits keen. The city hall man was hurrying off to work, and in his hurry he overlooked a little piece of glare ice upon the sidewalk. Therefore when he stepped thereon the sidewalk came up to meet him, and he coasted several feet, but not on his feet.

"Huh!" grunted the crossing policeman. "Slip down?"

"No," snipped the city hall man. "I'm traveling this way now to save my shoes!" — Boston Traveler.

## Heroic.

"Yes; I once saved a girl from drowning."

"How was that?"

"She was out rowing with a fellow who began to rock the boat."

"Yes?"

"I yelled to her to jump out and wade ashore before they got where the water was any deeper." — Chicago Record-Herald.

## "Faking It From Her."

Three little tots sat beside her on one side and two a bit older on the other. "Are these your children, madam," asked the conductor as he collected the fare, "or is it a picnic?"

"They are my children," she answered, with a weary look, "and it is no picnic." — Hampton's Magazine.

## Cheering Him Up.

"Darn these life insurance and fire insurance bills, anyway!" said Mr. Naggles as he went over his receipts. "I'll never get any benefit from them." "Oh, you could, dear!" said Mrs. Naggles. "If you were to die you would beat the game both ways." — Cincinnati Enquirer.

## A Self Accusing Suspicion.

"Why does your son take so much more interest in football than he does in the classics?"

"I don't know, but I'm a little afraid it's because I seem to get so much more enjoyment out of a good game than I do out of a Greek play."

## Exactly.

"When I marry," said the girl, "I am not going to marry a man who drinks, smokes, plays cards or who belongs to a club. Still, I want him to have a good time."

"Where?" he asked. — Ladies' Home Journal.

## Heredit.

"Give me a kiss," pleads the suitor of the lovely daughter of the eminent philanthropist.

"I will," she replies thoughtfully, "on condition that you raise three more within five minutes." — Judge's Library.

## In Deep Mourning.

Patron—Waiter, what is the matter with this establishment? This steak is burnt black!

Waiter—Yessah. Mark er respect, seh. Our chef done died yestiddy! — Puck.

## Sealing Her Lips.

Tom—Say, did you ever kiss a girl in a quiet spot?

Bill—Yes, but the spot was only quiet while I was kissing it.—Pennsylvania Punch Bowl.

## Getting Posted.

"Father, Alfred has something to say to you tonight."

"Well, and what have you and your mother decided I must tell him?" — Detroit Free Press.

## Same Hero.

The voices of the women are with me night and day. They call me and they lure me six thousand miles away.

Mid groves of rustling palm trees, 'neath skies of purest blue.

They rob the peace of summer—they bid me up and do.

## —Votes For Women.

The voices of the women are with me night and day.

They call me from my reading to book 'em right away.

They're at me every minute with chores that I must do.

They rob the peace of summer, fall, spring, and winter too.

—Detroit Free Press.

## IN THE REALM OF FASHION

## A Spring Model.

The headgear depicted here has a crown of delft blue satin and a brim of soft white togel straw, with a loose



IN BLUE SATIN AND WHITE STRAW.

bunch of satin flowers in front. There are strings to fasten it under its wearer's chin.

## The Fashionable Figure.

Corsets are shorter under the belt and all around than at the beginning of winter. They are really corsets no longer, except to bind the hips.

Women used to like curves; but, according to the dictates of the couturiers, the healthy woman is vulgar and dowdy.

Everything is suppressed in the figure. But and hips are made as small as possible. It used to be the case that people admired a plump figure and curves.

Nowadays the woman that has no hips and is flat of bust, the same size all the way down, is the beauty. The fashionable woman might as well be a boy in outline so far as figure is concerned.

## Taffeta Hats.

One of the newest features in millinery is the taffeta hat, and in practically all instances it is shirred or else put upon the frame full. The crowns are many times of the tam-o'-shanter design, but not in the straight flat style we are accustomed to. They are lined softly to give it some height and caught on the side back or front to give it irregularity and therefore make it immeasurably more becoming to women.

## THE POPULARITY OF SMALL HATS.

## Fancy Shapes Daintily Trimm'd With Flowers and Ribbons.

The little hat, as shown in some of the new spring models, is extremely picturesque. In one case the hat has a bag to match. Made of biscuit straw in helmet style, the hat has a crown of printed crepe in old world reds, blues, greens, browns, etc., touched with black. The hat fits the head closely, showing the hair a little at the front and sides.

The bag in two sections hangs from the wrist from bracelet rings of the crepe. The ends are in blue straw, one being finished with a mirror, the other having dainty little vandy dit tings.

A small hat in purple pedal straw has a quaint little brim turned back from the face with a printed band in faded blues, greens, etc., a strap of the printed fabric being carried from side to side under the chin. A bow finishes the back.

Among the straw hats of smaller shape there is a canvas design bound and lined with royal blue velvet worthy of note. Round the low flat crown there is a kilted ruching of the canvas outlined with emerald wool threads, and in the center of each plait there is a curious little red and green flower worked in wool.

For the evening there is a dainty little cap with a crown of gold and aluminum mesh banded with gold and finished with a fringe of gold beads. Round the gold band there is a series of small flowers worked in red and green beads.

## Leather Belts.

So far the use of the leather belt has been confined largely to the simple jackets, many of which are in belted style. The old fashioned straight around leather belt does not yet appear strongly on the horizon of fashion. Its reappearance, however, is suggested, and there is a strong possibility of development in this direction.

## Plaittings Popular.

Plaittings are put wherever a place is found for them—on the sleeves in festoons, on the corsage and about the peplum or tunic. If there is any, and if the frock is now there is pretty apt to be a peplum. But if there is no overskirt the plaitting is put on in scalloped rows or else in designs on the skirt.

## ROUND THE GLOBE

Newfoundland possesses 638 miles of railway lines.

The Suez canal traffic has doubled in fifteen years.

Great Britain has seven and three-quarter millions of dwelling houses.

The colors in the new Chinese flag are red, yellow, white, black and blue.

In one night recently 1,785 homeless persons were picked up by the police of London.

Nearly sixteen and a half million tons was the world's production of sugar for 1911.

On an ostrich farm each bird has an individual valuation based mainly on the quality of feathers yielded.

Among the employees of the government printing office at Washington are 250 persons over sixty-five years of age.

Liquid air loaded in thick phosphor bronze cartridges is being successfully used for blasting in some English coal mines.

It requires five big volumes to accommodate a new condensed dictionary for the blind printed at Vienna from raised type.

Berlin is now within twenty-one hours of London by the new schedule of the Great Eastern railway, by way of the Hook of Holland.

The performance at the Court theater of a drama based on Buddha's life and teaching was a recent novelty of the London theatrical season.

The total strength of the British army on Oct. 1, 1911, was 717,326 men, including the regular and special reserves and the territorial force.

Desertions in the United States army in 1911 amounted to only 2.88 per cent, a lower rate than in any other year for ninety years, except in 1898.

Members of the staff of the American Museum of Natural History have sailed for Japan to hunt the gray California whale, a specimen of which is needed for the collection.

The new Elbe tunnel, which connects Hamburg with Steinwerder, situated on an island in the river, is 140 feet in length, occupied four years in construction and cost £225,000.

The battleship Espana, the first ship of Spain's new navy, has been launched at Ferrol with elaborate ceremonies, in which the king and queen took part. Spain is making a new start on the sea with a moderate and modest program.

According to figures gathered by the Journal of the American Medical association, only sixty-four lives were lost last year in celebrating the Fourth. In 1903, the year in which agitation for a safe and sane celebration began, there were 572 deaths.

Berlin almost stands still. The increase since 1906 is only 1.2 per cent or from 2,640,000 to 2,664,000 inhabitants. Besides the capital, six cities have more than 500,000 people—Hamburg, 836,000; Munich, 505,000; Leipzig, 385,000; Dresden, 546,000; Cologne, 511,000; and Breslau, 510,000.

All persons on reaching the age of sixty-five earning less than \$384 a year will participate in the old age pensions established in France. According to estimates prepared by the government, these pensions will entail an expenditure of \$24,000,000 in 1912, \$25,500,000 in 1913 and \$26,000,000 in 1914.

Elliot Conroy, an usher in an Indianapolis theater, refused a reward of \$100 offered him by a woman for returning to her a valuable ring which she had lost in the theater. Conroy said his mother had taught him that though it paid to be honest he must never accept pay for being honest.

Texas raises more turkeys than any other state, perhaps because turkeys require plenty of room for range, and Texas surely can give them that. Little Rhode Island, however, is said to produce the largest number of big turkeys, some of them weighing forty pounds and worth 40 cents for every pound.

The picture of President Taft has been removed from the reception room of the Ciudad Juarez custom house, in which he and President Diaz of Mexico met two years ago. The picture was removed by an order of President Madero, forbidding the exhibition of pictures of any living persons in federal buildings.

There are 7,875 smoke consuming furnaces in London. Fifty-four different types of apparatus are used in the metropolis, all of which are effective smoke consumers. Up to the date of issuing the report from which these figures come 672 convictions for smoke nuisances had been obtained before the magistrates.

Forty young Chinese women are qualifying for the medical profession in American universities through the influence of Dr. Yamei Kin, the first woman doctor in China. Dr. Kin, as the head of the Hospital For Women in Tientsin, has also for the last ten years been training Chinese women